

Costs, called Local Costs, measured along said X- axis, said Local Cost Values being the smallest for the highest Accumulated Values; performing a search for the left and right pedicle landmark location Candidates among the points of said X-axis associated to the smallest Local Costs.

7. The image processing method of claim 5, wherein the determination of the Region of Scanning comprises:

selecting an image of a current vertebra delimited by lines joining its corner landmarks;

estimating the median axis of the vertebra sides and the angle between said axis and a reference horizontal axis of the 2-D spine frontal image;

rotating the image of said current vertebra by said angle and defining an horizontal axis, which is the X-axis corresponding to said current vertebra; and limiting the rotated image by the leftmost and the rightmost projections of the vertebra corner landmarks on said X-axis, thus defining a rectangular image region used as Region of Scanning.

8. The image processing method of claim 5, wherein the Feature Values are the ridgeness values estimated in the Region of Scanning.

9. A system comprising a suitably programmed computer or a special purpose processor having circuit means, which are arranged